

*Rhode Island Med. Soc.*

THE CHARTER

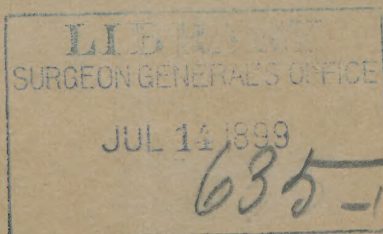
OF THE

Rhode Island Medical Society,

TOGETHER WITH THE

BY-LAWS,

As Amended December 15, 1887.





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Societies, Museums

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PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY.

1888.

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# STATE OF RHODE ISLAND, A. D. 1812.

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## AN ACT TO INCORPORATE CERTAIN PHYSICIANS AND SUR- GEONS, BY THE NAME OF "THE RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY."

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As the Medical Art is important to the health and happiness of society, every institution calculated to further its improvement is entitled to public attention : and as Medical Societies, formed on liberal principles, and encouraged by the patronage of the laws, have been found conducive to this end :—

SECTION 1. *Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly and by the authority thereof it is enacted:* That Amos Throop, William Bowen, Pardon Bowen, Levi Wheaton, Rowland Greene, Samuel Hudson, Daniel Barrus, Joseph Comstock, Niles Manchester, John Wilkinson, John M. Eddy, Thomas M. Barrows, Charles Eldredge, Jacob Fuller, Moses Mowry, Peleg Clark, John Mackie, Jeremiah Williams, William C. Bowen, Joseph B. Pettes, Walter Wheaton, Stephen Harris, Sylvester Knight, Abraham Mason, Ezekiel Comstock, Augustus Torrey, A. Waldron, Caleb Fiske, Solomon Drown, Comfort A. Carpenter, Thomas Nelson, Thomas Warren, John W. Richmond, William G. Shaw, Cyril Carpenter, Thomas Carpenter, Gorton Jerault, Chillingsworth Foster, Lemuel W. Briggs, John Aldrich, Eleazer Bellows, Eleazer Bellows, Jr., Jonathan Easton,

Benjamin Waite Case, Enoch Hazard, David King, William Turner, Edmund Thomas Waring, and Jonathan Easton, Jr., be and they hereby are formed into, constituted and made a body politic and corporate, by the name of "THE RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY;" and that they and their successors, and such other persons as shall be elected in the manner hereafter mentioned, shall be and continue a body politic and corporate by the same name forever.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the members of said Society may, from time to time, elect a President, two Vice-Presidents, one or more Secretaries, with such other officers as they shall judge necessary and convenient; and they, the members of said Society, shall have full power and authority, from time to time, to determine and establish the names, number and duty of their several officers, and the tenure they shall respectively have in their offices.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the members of the said Society shall have a common seal, and power to break, change or renew the same at their pleasure.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the said Society may sue and be sued, in all actions, real, personal, or mixed, and prosecute and defend the same unto final judgment and execution.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the said Society shall have full power and authority to make and enact such rules and by-laws, for the better government of said Society, as are not repugnant to the laws of this State, or of the United States, and to annex reasonable fines and penalties to the breach of them, not exceeding the sum of fifty dollars, to be sued for and recovered by said Society, and to their own use, by action of debt, in any court having cognizance of the same; and also to determine the number requisite to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; and to establish the time, place and manner of convening the said Society.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That said Society, at any stated legal meeting of the same, may, by a majority of the votes of those present, elect any suitable person or persons to be a member or members of the said Society : *Provided*, That all practicing Physicians or Surgeons, resident within this State, who shall be so elected, shall, within one year after such election, subscribe the by-laws of the said Society, or otherwise declare in writing their assent to the same, or such election shall be void ; and all persons not practicing Physicians or Surgeons, or not resident within this State, who shall be so elected, may be deemed honorary members of the said Society ; and at any such meeting, the said Society shall have power, in like manner, to suspend or expel, for improper conduct, any member of said Society.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That the President and members of said Society, or such officers or members as they shall specially appoint for that purpose, shall have full power and authority to examine all candidates for the practice of Physic and Surgery, who shall offer themselves for examination, respecting their skill in their profession ; and if, upon examination, the said candidates shall be found skilled in their profession, and fitted for the practice of it, they shall receive the approbation of the said Society, in letters testimonial, under the seal of said Society, signed by the President, or such other person or persons as shall be appointed for that purpose.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That the said Society may and shall forever be deemed capable in law, of having, holding and taking, in fee simple or any less estate, by gift, grant or devise, or otherwise, any land, tenement, or other estate, real or personal, provided that the annual income of the whole real estate, that may be given, granted or devised to or purchased by the said Society, shall not exceed the sum of five hundred dollars, and the annual income or interest of said personal estate shall not exceed fifteen hundred dollars, and the annual income or interest of the said real and

personal estate, together with the fines and penalties paid to said Society or recovered by them, shall be appropriated to such purposes as are consistent with the end and design of the institution of the said Society, and as the members thereof shall determine.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That a meeting for the organization of the said Society shall be held in some convenient place within this State, and that Dr. Amos Throop be, and he hereby is, authorized to appoint the time and place of holding the said meeting, and to give notice of the same in two or more newspapers printed in the towns of Newport and Providence.

*Passed February Session, A. D. 1812.*

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AMENDMENT.

*It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 8 of "An act to incorporate the Rhode Island Medical Society," passed by the General Assembly at its February session, A. D. 1812, is hereby amended so as to read as follows: "Section 8. And be it further enacted that the said society may and shall forever be deemed capable in law of having, holding and taking in fee simple, or any less estate by gift, grant or devise or otherwise, any land, tenement or other estate, real or personal, to the amount of one hundred thousand dollars. And the whole or any portion of said estate, real or personal, or the income thereof or of any portion of the same, together with the fines and penalties paid to said society or recovered by it, said society may appropriate to such purposes as are consistent with the end and design of the institution of said society, and as the members thereof shall determine."

SEC. 2. This act shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

*Passed January Session, A. D. 1887.*

## BY-LAWS.

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WHEREAS, It is granted and declared, in and by the Charter for incorporating a Medical Society in the State of Rhode Island, that the Fellows may enact such by-laws, rules and regulations, relative to the affairs, concerns and property of said Society, and relative to the duties of their several officers, as they may think proper ; it is therefore ordained that the following be the by-laws and rules of the said Society :

### CHAPTER I.—OF OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES.

#### OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. At the annual meeting there shall be chosen, by ballot, a President, a First and Second Vice-President, a Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Auditor, eight Censors, a Publishing Committee of three, a Committee on the Library of five, a Committee on the Museum of five, a Committee on Necrology of three, and a Committee of Arrangements of three.

#### PRESIDENT.

SEC. 2. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society ; shall call for reports of committees ; shall regulate debate ; shall state and put questions ; shall enforce observance of the by-laws and regulations ; shall annually appoint a member of the Board of Examiners ; shall, at the annual meeting following his election to this office, deliver before the Society an address ; or in case he should find himself

unable to do so, shall appoint a substitute; shall appoint, at a previous meeting, members to read papers or open discussions at the quarterly meetings, and also appoint delegates to other Medical Societies; and shall perform all such duties as may be assigned him.

The President shall have power to call a special meeting of the Society or of the Board of Censors whenever he shall deem it expedient, or whenever five Fellows shall request it in writing.

#### VICE-PRESIDENTS.

SEC. 3. The first Vice-President, in case of the death, resignation, disability, or absence of the President, shall have and exercise all his powers; and in the absence of those two officers, the second Vice-President shall officiate as President.

#### RECORDING SECRETARY.

SEC. 4. The Recording Secretary shall have charge of the charter, by-laws and records of the Society; shall notify all meetings of the Society; shall keep a fair record of their proceedings; shall receive and record the proceedings of the Censors, which he shall read at the next regular meeting, and also such communications as have been received since the last meeting; shall, after any person is elected a Fellow or honorary member, transmit to him information thereof, together with a copy of the charter and by-laws of the Society, within thirty days from the time of said election; shall notify the chairmen of all committees, furnishing the names of the committee; shall, within ten days after every annual meeting, certify to the cashier of the Union Bank, by a written notice, that the Rhode Island Medical Society has continued to hold its annual meetings as authorized by charter—who its President and Vice-Presidents are—and also, if such be the fact, that the Society is constituted of more than twenty members, exclusive of honorary mem-

bers ; shall have the custody of, and use on proper occasions, the seal of the Society ; shall be *ex-officio* a member of the Publishing Committee ; shall see that each of the Fellows and honorary members be supplied with a copy of the Society's publications, and also of every essay published by the Trustees of the Fiske Fund ; shall exchange publications with other medical societies ; shall notify the secretaries of other medical societies of the date of the annual meeting of this Society, and furnish the names of delegates ; shall at each annual meeting make a report to the Society, and perform such other services as may be assigned him.

#### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

SEC. 5. The Corresponding Secretary shall have the charge of all letters and communications transmitted to the Society ; shall cause papers written in any foreign language to be translated into English ; shall prepare and transmit answers to correspondents, in such language and form as the Society shall direct, and perform such other duties as may be assigned him. If, at any time, either of the Secretaries should be absent, the one attending shall perform the services of both, but shall, as soon as may be, arrange and deliver over the papers of their respective departments. The Secretaries may also, with the consent of the President, furnish attested copies of papers and transactions belonging to their respective departments, for which such fees may be demanded as the Society shall establish.

#### TREASURER.

SEC. 6. The Treasurer shall give security for the trust reposed in him, whenever it may be judged requisite, and the funds will admit a compensation for his services ; shall demand and receive all moneys due the Society, together with all bequests and donations ; shall demand, and, if necessary, sue for and recover all fines and assessments due the Society ; shall, under the direction of the Society, sell

or lease any estate belonging to it, and execute the necessary papers ; shall, in general, have the care and management of all fiscal concerns, and keep an accurate statement of all receipts and expenditures ; shall pay no money out of the treasury but by an order from the President ; shall make a report of the state of the treasury at every annual meeting, and shall be, *ex-officio*, a member of the Committee of Arrangements. His accounts shall also be annually examined and approved by an Auditor, elected by the Society.

#### BOARD OF CENSORS.

SEC. 7. There shall be a meeting of the Censors on the morning of the annual and each quarterly meeting of the Society, and one hour before the meeting of the Society, for the transaction of such business as may come before them ; seven days written notice thereof being given to each Censor. Three Censors shall constitute a quorum, and the Senior Censor present shall preside, and may appoint either of the other Censors present to officiate as Secretary, whose duty it shall be to keep a faithful record of all the proceedings of the Censors, and from time to time transmit a copy of the same to the Recording Secretary.

It shall be the duty of the Censors to act as a committee *ex-officio*, or court of inquiry, for the purpose of receiving charges of any unprofessional conduct of the Fellows, and if they shall consider them as sufficiently substantiated, to report the same to the Society at the next meeting. It shall also be incumbent on the Censors to give one month's notice, to the person implicated, of the existence of such charges, in order that he may be present and prepared to defend himself at the next meeting of the Society.

It shall be the duty of the Censors to receive the application for admission of any person as a Fellow of this Society, and, after duly examining the candidate's diploma, provided it emanated from some medical college of known and acknowledged respectability, and satisfying themselves

that he does not profess or intend to practice any exclusive system of medicine, they shall refer the candidate to the Board of Examiners, and on the receipt of a favorable report of the examination passed, they shall recommend him for election. The Censors may, at their discretion, recommend for election, without examination, applicants who are members of recognized Medical Societies.

It shall be the duty of the Censors, at the annual meeting, with the concurrence of the President, to appoint an Anniversary Chairman to preside at the next annual dinner.

#### BOARD OF EXAMINERS.

SEC. 8. Examinations for admission to this Society shall be conducted by a Board of five members to be appointed by the President, at the annual meeting. Each year the senior by appointment shall drop out, and his successor shall be appointed for five years. No member of the Board shall be eligible for re-appointment within one year after the expiration of his term. The senior by appointment shall be President of the Board.

Examinations shall be held in the month of April in each year at such time and place as may be convenient to the members of the Board, and shall embrace the usual branches of medical science taught in recognized medical colleges.

The Board will examine only such candidates as have been referred to them by the Board of Censors, and will report to the Censors the result of the examination during the first week in May.

#### PUBLISHING COMMITTEE.

SEC. 9. The Publishing Committee shall, at the beginning of each year, publish the Transactions of the preceding year, together with the Annual Address and such papers as they see fit.

All papers read before the Society shall be the property

of the Society, and shall be referred to the Publishing Committee, who shall decide regarding their publication.

Papers intended for publication shall be sent to the Committee within thirty days from the date of their presentation.

The Publishing Committee shall cause the following disclaimer to be printed with each number of the Transactions issued, and on the title-leaf of each completed volume :

*The Rhode Island Medical Society in publishing papers does not thereby endorse the theories or opinions of the writers.*

#### COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY.

SEC. 10. The Committee on the Library shall have charge of the library of the Society, and custody of all books and pamphlets published by the Society and by the Trustees of the Fiske Fund ; shall appoint one of their number to act as Treasurer ; shall appoint some suitable person Librarian ; shall make rules concerning the use of the library, and shall present a report at the annual meeting.

The Treasurer of the Committee on the Library shall receive contributions for the support of the library, shall pay out the same as the Committee may direct, and shall keep an exact account of all receipts and expenditures.

The Librarian shall keep an accurate list of all accessions to the library ; shall see that the library is open for reference at such hours as the Committee may direct ; shall compile the necessary catalogues and reference lists ; shall take a receipt for every book loaned from the library, and shall preform such other duties as may be assigned him.

#### COMMITTEE ON THE MUSEUM.

SEC. 11. The Committee on the Museum shall have charge of all anatomical and pathological specimens and pre-declaring his assent, in the manner required by the act of parations belonging or loaned to the Society ; shall appoint one of their number to act as Treasurer ; shall appoint some suitable person Curator, and shall present a report at the annual meeting.

The Treasurer of the Committee on the Museum shall receive contributions for the support of the Museum; shall pay out the same as the Committee may direct, and shall keep an exact account of all receipts and expenditures.

The Curator shall keep an accurate list of all accessions to the Museum; shall see that each object is accurately labelled, and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned him.

#### COMMITTEE ON NECROLOGY.

SEC. 12. The Committee on Necrology shall prepare for insertion in the Transactions of the Society memoirs of Fellows deceased during the year.

#### COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

SEC. 13. The Committee of Arrangements shall provide a suitable place, and make all necessary preparation for each meeting of the Society; shall provide a collation for each quarterly meeting, and shall, with the coöperation of the Anniversary Chairman, make arrangements for the annual dinner.

#### RESIGNATION, REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF OFFICERS.

SEC. 14. Every officer of the Society may, for sufficient reasons, resign his office, or may be removed therefrom by order of the Society, or by the President with the approval of the Board of Censors, for neglect, inattention or censurable conduct, in any of which cases, or on the death of an officer, the President shall appoint a Fellow to the office so vacated, who shall serve until the next annual meeting.

### CHAPTER II.—OF FELLOWS.

#### ELECTION.

SECTION 1. Fellows shall be elected by ballot, at the annual meeting of the Society, by a two-thirds vote of the members present. Every person elected a Fellow of this Society shall be notified thereof by the Secretary, and upon incorporation, and paying three dollars to the Treasurer,

and signing the constitution and by-laws, shall receive from the Recording Secretary the usual diploma.

#### ASSESSMENTS.

SEC. 2. Every Fellow of this Society shall annually contribute three dollars to the funds of the Society, and the same shall be due and payable to the Treasurer on admission to Fellowship and at each subsequent annual meeting. Any Fellow, who, for three consecutive years, shall neglect to pay the annual assessment, shall cease to be a member of the Society until such dues shall have been paid in full.

#### AGED FELLOWS.

SEC. 3. When a Fellow shall have attained the age of seventy years, he shall, if he so request, be exempt from future taxation.

#### EXPULSION.

SEC. 4. No Fellow of the Society shall be expelled therefrom but by a vote of two-thirds, at least, of the Fellows present at the annual meeting of the Society.

#### HONORARY MEMBERS.

SEC. 5. Medical men of wide-known and established reputation, may, on recommendation of the Board of Censors, be admitted at the annual meeting as honorary members of the Society, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

### CHAPTER III.—OF MEETINGS.

#### ANNUAL AND QUARTERLY MEETINGS.

SECTION 1. There shall be an annual meeting of the RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY, to be held in the city of Providence, on the second Thursday in June, at 10 o'clock, A. M., at such place as the President may appoint; seven

days notice being previously given, by a written or printed notice addressed to each Fellow of the Society by the Recording Secretary.

SEC. 2. There shall be three quarterly meetings of the Society, to be held as follows: On the second Thursday of September; on the second Thursday of December, and on the second Thursday of March, at 10 o'clock, A. M., in such town or city as the Society, at the previous meeting, shall appoint. Like notice of each of these meetings shall be given by the Recording Secretary as is required for the annual meeting. At all meetings ten Fellows shall constitute a quorum for transacting business.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS.

SEC. 3. At the annual meeting the Recording Secretary shall read the records of the last annual meeting, and of the preceding quarterly meeting; after which reports shall be received and business proceeded with in the following order:

1. Report of the Recording Secretary.
2. Report of the Treasurer.
3. Report of the Board of Censors.
4. Statement of the Trustees of the Fiske Fund.
5. Reports of Committees.
6. Election of Officers for the ensuing year.
7. Election of Fellows or Honorary Members.
8. Selecting the place of the next meeting.
9. General business and communications.

The time of presenting guests and delegates from other societies shall be discretionary with the President.

The Annual Address shall be delivered at 12.30 o'clock, P. M.

The quarterly meetings shall be chiefly devoted to the reading of papers, reports of cases, exhibition of specimens, and the general advancement of medical knowledge among the members of the Society.

## BY-LAWS.

No By-Law shall be altered, amended or repealed, except at a meeting subsequent to one at which notice of such intention is given; but a By-Law may be temporarily suspended by a two-thirds vote of the Fellows present.

# FISKE FUND,

## FOR PRIZE DISSERTATIONS.

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The late Dr. CALEB FISKE, formerly President of the Rhode Island Medical Society, with a munificence that does honor to his memory, bequeathed in his last will, for the benefit of the Society, the sum of two thousand dollars, directing the proceeds thereof to be applied to the payment of premiums for Prize Dissertations, and for contingent expenses, as set forth in the following extract from his will:—

ITEM.—“I give and bequeath to the President and two Vice-Presidents of the Medical Society of the State of Rhode Island, for the time being, and to their successors in office, the semi-annual dividends arising from forty shares of stock which I own in the Union Bank, of Providence, the amount thereof, two thousand dollars, in trust for the uses herein limited:—Use the first: nine-twelfths of said dividends shall constitute a fund to be applied in the manner following, to wit: The said trustees, or either two of them, shall select at every annual meeting of said Society, such subject or subjects for investigation as they may judge most conducive to the advancement of medical science, and give notice thereof in one of the newspapers published in Newport, and one published in Providence, for the term of six weeks, offering such premium or premiums as the annual product of said funds will justify, to be awarded and paid out by said trustees for the best treatise on the subject proposed by them for investigation, to be communicated to

said trustees one month previous to the next annual meeting of said Society. And in order that a laudable spirit of emulation may be excited and maintained, the trustees shall not only suitably reward the authors of the fortunate productions, but also prescribe such rules for receiving the communications and deciding on the merits of the several performances, as will shield the unsuccessful competitor from obloquy or reproach. Use the second: Two-twelfths of the profits or dividends of said stock are to remunerate said trustees for their services in the execution of the several trusts herein confided to them. Use the third: One-twelfth of the profits of said stock is to be appropriated to printing and supplying each member of said Society with a copy of such treatise for which premiums have been awarded. It is believed, however, that the copyright of the productions may be so disposed of by said trustees as not only to furnish the members of said Society with copies gratis, but also to make some addition to the aforesaid fund; and it is also believed that said trustees, in consideration of advantages which said Society may derive from a discreet management of said fund, will frequently, if not uniformly, render their services gratuitously, whereby a further addition may be made to said fund. If these anticipations should be realized in part or in whole, whatever sums remain unappropriated shall be added to said fund for the uses aforesaid. And my will further is, and I hereby ordain, that the aforesaid forty shares of stock, the nominal amount whereof is two thousand dollars, shall remain registered in my name in the books of said bank, but the dividends or profits arising therefrom, shall be subject, from time to time, to the order of said trustees for the uses above limited; but every order drawn on said bank shall express the uses to which the money is to be applied. Furthermore, the said trustees shall cause their proceedings in the premises to be recorded in a book or books, from year to year, and deposited in the archives or cabinet of said Society

for safe keeping, inserting therein the annual amount of said fund and the additions, if any, made thereto, the subject or subjects proposed for investigation, the amount of premiums offered, the names and places of abode of persons to whom premiums are awarded, with such other facts and remarks relative to the application of said dividends as they may judge expedient, and the proceedings, or such parts thereof as shall be audibly read before said Society at their annual meeting, and also be subject to the inspection of any member of said Society, and also be free for examination by my heirs at law; provided, nevertheless, and I do hereby order, that if the said dividends or profits arising from the aforesaid stock, or any part thereof, should at any time hereafter be used for any other purposes, than those before limited, or applied in any other manner than is above directed, or if said trustees, or either two of them for the time being, shall neglect or refuse to execute the aforesaid trust in manner and form before specified, sickness and other unavoidable accidents excepted, for the term of one year, then, in either of these cases, this bequest shall thenceforth cease and determine, and said stock and the dividends arising therefrom shall thenceforth descend to, and vest in, my heirs at law. Provided, also, and I do hereby ordain, that if at any time hereafter, said Medical Society shall discontinue its anniversary meetings, authorized by its charter, or in case its members (Fellows), exclusive of honorary members, shall decline in number, and at any time hereafter be reduced to twenty, then and in either of those cases, this bequest shall thenceforth cease and determine, and said stock and the dividends or profits arising therefrom, shall descend to, and vest in, my heirs at law."





